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**SENT VIA EMAIL**

March 29, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

-and-

The Honourable Catherine McKenna  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Fontaine Building 12th floor  
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Dear Sir/Madam:

**RE: KINGSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON PHRAGMITES CONTROL**

At its Regular Meeting held Monday, March 25, 2019 Council of the Town of Kingsville passed the following resolution:

**"214-2019**

**Moved By** Councillor Thomas Neufeld  
**Seconded By** Councillor Laura Lucier

**WHEREAS** *Phragmites australis* (herein referred to as "Phragmites") is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to our wetlands, beaches and municipal drainage systems across Essex County;

**AND WHEREAS** *Phragmites* grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short amount of time, and is a plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighbouring plant species;

**AND WHEREAS** *Phragmites* results in loss of biodiversity and species richness, loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, an increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture, particularly in drainage ditches;

**AND WHEREAS** invasive *Phragmites* has been identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** controlling invasive Phragmites before it becomes well established reduces environmental impacts, time, and costs;

**AND WHEREAS** according to the Ministry of the Environment, best management practices for Phragmites include early detection, herbicide application, mowing, compressing or rolling, prescribed burning, and controlled flooding;

**AND WHEREAS** these best management practices are most effective when used in tandem as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures;

**AND WHEREAS** herbicides containing surfactants are prohibited for use in aquatic environments in Canada, meaning that Canadians are not able to fully implement best management practices.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipality of Kingsville, having recognized the need to implement best management practices, and being a leader among Ontario municipalities in efforts to control Phragmites, calls on the Canadian Federal Government to take the appropriate regulatory measures to expedite and approve the use of herbicides in aquatic environments by the 2019 growing season as well as the use of aerial control measures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be forwarded to Essex County municipalities, the local MP and MPP for Essex, the Premier of Ontario, Conservation Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Leader of the Official Opposition, and the Prime Minister of Canada.

**CARRIED”**

Yours very truly,



Jennifer Astrologo, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk  
Corporate Services Department

cc: The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
The Hon. Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Official Opposition  
Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition (Ontario)  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Tracey Ramsey, MP  
Taras Natyshak, MPP  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Conservation Ontario  
Agriculture and Agri-food Canada  
Town of Amherstburg  
Town of Essex  
Town of Lakeshore  
Town of LaSalle  
Municipality of Leamington  
Town of Tecumseh

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